

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 14373 01 OF 02 261807Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----074579 261815Z /44

O R 261757Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7737
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 14373

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TSPA PGOV BQG CG GW UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET CONCERN RE FRG ROCKET MANUFACTURING
AND TESTING

REF: BONN 13914

1. EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED STATE 200972, REF A OF
REFTEL.

2. SUBJECT AROSE, HOWEVER, TWICE IN RECENT SEPARATE

,
CONVERSATIONS IN LONDON. IN PERIODIC REVIEW OF BERLIN-
FRG MATTERS WITH ACTING HEAD OF WESTERN EUROPEAN DEPART-
MENT AUGUST 24, WE WERE ASKED ABOUT US REACTION TO
SOVIET "NON-PAPER" ON ZAIRE TEST RANGE AND PLEADED
IGNORANCE. FCO SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD SOVIETS MADE PARA-
LLEL DEMARCHES IN WASHINGTON AND PARIS. FCO ALSO PRO-
MISED TEXT (SEE PARA 5, BELOW) OF "SPEAKING NOTE" USED
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BY SOVIETS IN DEMARCHE TO FCO AUGUST 22, AND "SPEAKING
NOTE" USED IN SOVIET DEMARCHE TO FRG AUGUST 22.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE AUGUST 24, SOVIET DCM
SEMENOV TALKED IN SOME DETAIL ABOUT FRG DEVELOPMENT OF
"INTERCONTINENTAL" MISSILES AND TEST RANGE IN ZAIRE. HE
NOTED THAT DEVELOPMENT OF "OFFENSIVE WEAPONS" BY FRG

WAS SPECIFICALLY RULED OUT UNDER FOUR POWER AGREEMENTS
AND DESCRIBED AT SOME LENGTH THE DANGERS OF AN UNRE-
STRAINED FRG.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REPEATING STATE
200972 TO LONDON, AND PLACING LONDON ON DISTRIBUTION
FOR TRAFFIC ON THIS MATTER.

5. A. QUOTE SPEAKING NOTE (MR. SEMENOV'S CALL ON
MR. TOMLINSON, 22 AUGUST 1977)

ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION IT IS NOT TO BE
EXCLUDED THAT THE QUESTION IS ABOUT AN ATTEMPT BY THE
FRG IN CIRCUMVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS IN
FORCE TO CREATE OUTSIDE ITS BORDERS A BASE FOR THE PRO-
DUCTION AND TESTING OF ITS OWN MISSILE ARMAMENTS AND TO
DEPLOY LAUNCHING SITES OF MILITARY MISSILES. THE
CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A TURN OF EVENTS FROM THE VIEW-
POINT OF THE INTERESTS OF THE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY WOULD BE OBVIOUS. THEREFORE WE CONSIDER IT
NECESSARY FROM THE OUTSET TO CLARIFY THE QUESTION OF
THE AIMS OF CREATING A FRG FIRING GROUND IN ZAIRE AND OF
THE NATURE OF THE ACTIVITIES THERE. SHOULD IT BECOME
NECESSARY, - TO TAKE CORRESPONDING MEASURES TO PREVENT
A VIOLATION BY THE FRG OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS
IN FORCE.

THIS APPROACH STEMS FROM THE QUADRIPARTITE RIGHTS
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AND OBLIGATIONS SHARED BY OUR STATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE KNOWN INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS. WE EXPECT THAT

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ACTION SS-25

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-----074574 261814Z /50

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 14373

EXDIS

THE BRITISH SIDE WILL BE WORKING IN A SIMILAR DIRECTION.
END QUOTE.

B. QUOTE SPEAKING NOTE (SOVIET DEMARCHE TO FRG
GOVERNMENT, 22 AUGUST 1977)

NOTICE WAS TAKEN IN MOSCOW TO THE REPORTS ABOUT
SETTING UP A WEST GERMAN MISSILE FIRING GROUND IN ZAIRE
ON WHICH TESTS HAVE GONE UNDER WAY OF MISSILES DEVELOPED
BY THE 'OTRAG' COMPANY. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS REPORTS
THE QUESTION IS ABOUT MISSILES CAPABLE TO CARRY TO A
NEAR-SPACE ORBIT A CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT THAT COULD BE
USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. THE ACTIVITY ON THE FIRING
GROUND IS SHROUDED WITH SECRECY WHICH OBVIOUSLY DOES
NOT ACCORD WITH THE 'OTRAG' COMPANY'S STATEMENTS THAT
THESE MISSILES ARE INTENDED FOR 'PURELY CIVILIAN USE'.

THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL
INFORMATION FROM THE FRG GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE PURPOSES
OF CREATING A FIRING GROUND IN ZAIRE AND ABOUT THE
NATURE OF THE ACTIVITIES THERE. IN DOING SO THE SOVIET
SIDE PRECEEDS FROM ITS RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS ARISING
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FROM THE KNOWN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.

OUR COMMUNICATION IS NECESSITATED BY OUR CONCERN
THAT NO STEPS ARE UNDERTAKEN WHICH COULD GIVE AN ADDI-
TIONAL IMPETUS TO THE NUCLEAR MISSILE ARMS RACE AND TO
DRAGGING INTO IT NEW COUNTRIES AND REGIONS. WE BELIEVE
THAT THE FRG GOVERNMENT HAS A SIMILAR APPROACH TO THE
MATTER. END QUOTE.

STREATOR

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